

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 IGA-02 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CU-04 EB-11 SR-02 ORM-03 DPW-01 DRC-01 /170 W

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R 290137Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EAID, JA

SUBJ: ASIAN REGIONALISM: ANNUAL SEAMED MEETING

REF: TOKYO 11934

SUMMARY: BURMA, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND PARTICIPATED IN SEAMED FOR FIRST TIME. PM TANAKA AND FONMIN OHIRA IN ADDRESSES TO CONFERENCE STRESSED GOJ'S INTENT TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF AID, AND THEIR VIEW OF SEAMED'S PURPOSE, I.E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. OHIRA ANNOUNCED GOJ \$50 MILLION AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

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1. EIGHT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF

SOUTHEAST ASIA (SEAMED) TOOK PLACE IN TOKYO OCT 11-13, GENERALLY ALONG LINES PREDICTED REFTEL. BURMA PARTICIPATED FOR FIRST TIME, AND NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA BECAME MEMBERS.

2. PM TANAKA ADDRESSED MINISTERIAL SESSION OCT 12. IN HIS REMARKS, TANAKA NOTED QTE OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN PAST HAS NOT BEEN SATISFACTORY IN ALL ASPECTS AND NEEDS IMPROVEMENT IN ITS VOLUME AS WELL AS ITS QUALITY (GOJ WILL STRIVE) TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY OF OUR ASSISTANCE, THAT IS, TERMS OF OUR AID. UNQTE.

3. FONMIN OHIRA ALSO ADDRESSED CONFERENCE OCT 12. SIMILARLY TO TANAKA, OHIRA SAID QTE MY GOVERNMENT WILL ... CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO EXPAND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ON GRANT BASIS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. AT SAME TIME, MY GOVERNMENT WILL EXERT FRESH EFFORTS TO FURTHER SOFTEN TERMS OF ITS GOVERNMENT LOANS IN LINE WITH STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ECONOMIC FACTORS OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES UNQTE.

4. EMBOFF REVIEWED CONFERENCE RESULTS WITH ISHIGAKI, ACTING HEAD, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION, ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU, FONOFF. ISHIGAKI MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

A. AT EARLIER SEAMED MEETINGS PARTICIPANTS WERE PREDOMINANTLY MINISTERS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT MATTERS. AT THIS MEETING, HIGHER RANKING REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT, INCLUDING FINANCE MINISTERS, MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND TWO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS.

B. POLITICAL MATTERS WERE NOT DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE. ALL MEMBERS SEEM PLEASED THAT CONFERENCE IS EVOLVING AS FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS.

C. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AT CONFERENCE OF POSSIBLE NEW MEMBERS. AT EARLIER MEETINGS IN TOKYO OF AMBASSADORS OF ORIGINAL SEAMED COUNTRIES, QUESTION OF CHINESE AND NORTH VIETNAMESE MEMBERSHIP HAD ARISEN QTE IN PASSING UNQTE, BUT MEMBERS DECIDED THAT PRESENT EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP (QW COUNTRIES) IS QUITE SATISFACTORY.

D. REMARKS OF PM TANAKA AND FONMIN OHIRA (PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE) WERE QTE RATHER GENERAL AND NOTHING NEW UNQTE.

E. CONTRARY TO EARLIER EXPECTATIONS, DRAFT AGREEMENT ON CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPOSED SOUTHEAST ASIA MEDICAL AND HEALTH ORGANIZATION WAS NOT ADOPTED AT CONFERENCE. GOJ STILL EXPECTS THAT MOST MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE, AND TIME AND PLACE FOR SIGNING DRAFT AGREEMENT WILL BE DECIDED THROUGH FUTURE CONSULTATIONS.

5. FONMIN OHIRA IN HIS ADDRESS PROPOSED THAT EXAMINATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN FOOD PROBLEM BE BEGUN BY GROUP OF HIGH OFFICIALS OR EXPERTS FROM SEAMED COUNTRIES AT EARLY DATE.

FONOFF IMPRESSION, ACCORDING TO ISHIGAKI, IS THAT MOST MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN PROPOSAL. GOJ WILL TAKE INITIATIVE AND PROPOSE A MEETING IN DUE COURSE. FONOFF HAS NO SPECIFIC TIMING IN MIND AT THIS TIME.

6. OHIRA ALSO NOTED IN HIS REMARKS GOJ'S HOPE FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR STABILIZATION, RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDOCHINA, AND GOJ'S INTENTION TO EXTEND AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AS POSSIBLE TO AREA UNDER SUCH FRAMEWORK. EVEN BEFORE FRAMEWORK IS ESTABLISHED, HE CONCLUDED, GOJ QTE INTENDS TO HELP MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF ALL COUNTRIES IN AREA FOR RELIEF OF REFUGEES AND STABILIZATION OF PEOPLES' WELFARE. AS FIRST STEP IN THIS CONTEXT, MY GOVERNMENT WILL SOON PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN AN AMOUNT OF 50 MILLION DOLLARS TO REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM UNQTE.

7. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON QUESTION OF EXPANDING SEAMED'S FUNCTIONS TO INCLUDE POLITICAL AND SECURITY MATTERS.
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